

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A method of providing a printing system under a lease agreement, comprising:  
2                 leasing out a server computer, wherein the server computer receives a digital  
3                 image transmitted from a computer system;  
4                 leasing out at least one printer connected to the server computer, wherein the at  
5                 least one printer prints the digital image; and  
6                 providing a remote monitoring server, having a connection with the server  
7                 computer, to monitor conditions of at least one of the server computer and the at least one  
8                 printer, wherein the remote monitoring system is operated by a lessor.

9           2.     The method according to claim 1, further including connecting an input device to  
10            the computer system to provide the digital image to the computer system.

11          3.     The method according to claim 2, wherein the input device is selected from the  
12            group consisting of a scanner, a digital camera, a computer system, and a network.

13          4.     The method according to claim 1, further including providing a storage device  
14            within the computer system to store the digital image.

15          5.     The method according to claim 1, further including providing software to the  
16            computer system to edit the digital image.

1           6.       The method according to claim 1, further including converting the digital image  
2 into a proprietary format prior to transmitting the digital image to the server computer.

1           7.       The method according to claim 1, further including providing updates by the  
2 remote monitoring server for software on the server computer.

1           8.       The method according to claim 1, further including servicing at least one of the  
2 server computer and the at least one printer based on the conditions monitored by the remote  
3 monitoring server.

1           9.       The method according to claim 1, further including maintaining an account based  
2 on the conditions monitored by the remote monitoring server.

1           10.      The method according to claim 1, wherein the conditions monitored include at  
2 least one of a number of media printed by the at least one printer, a status of the server computer,  
3 a status of the at least one printer, and an ink level of an ink cartridge in the at least one printer.

1           11.      The method according to claim 1, further including supplying at least one of ink  
2 and print media based on the conditions monitored by the remote monitoring server.

1           12.      The method according to claim 1, wherein the lease agreement covers possession  
2 and minimum use of the server computer and the at least one printer by an end user, and supply  
3 of ink and print media to the end user by the lessor.

1       13.    A method of printing, comprising:  
2            receiving a digital image at a computer system;  
3            transmitting the digital image to a server computer, wherein the server computer  
4            is connected to at least one printer;  
5            monitoring remotely conditions of at least one of the server computer and the at  
6            least one printer by a remote monitoring server having a connection with the server  
7            computer, wherein the remote monitoring server is operated by a lessor, and the server  
8            computer and the at least one printer are leased out to an end user under a lease  
9            agreement; and  
10          printing the digital image on the at least one printer.

11       14.    The method according to claim 13, further including storing the digital image on  
12            the computer system.

13       15.    The method according to claim 13, further including editing the digital image on  
14            the computer system prior to transmitting the digital image to the server computer.

15       16.    The method according to claim 13, further including converting the digital image  
16            into a proprietary format prior to transmitting the digital image to the server computer.

17       17.    The method according to claim 13, wherein the digital image is provided to the  
18            computer system via an input device.

1           18.    The method according to claim 13, further including providing updates for  
2 software on the server computer by the remote monitoring server.

1           19.    The method according to claim 13, further including servicing at least one of the  
2 server computer and the at least one printer based on the conditions monitored by the remote  
3 monitoring server.

1           20.    The method according to claim 13, further including maintaining an account  
2 based on the conditions monitored by the remote monitoring server.

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3 a server computer, connected to the computer system, to receive the digital image  
4 transmitted from the computer system;

5 at least one printer connected to the server computer to print the digital image;  
6 and

7 a remote monitoring server, having a connection with the server computer, to  
8 monitor conditions of at least one of the server computer and the at least one printer,  
9 wherein the remote monitoring server is operated by a lessor, and the server computer  
10 and the at least one printer are leased out to an end user under a lease agreement.

11 25. The printing system according to claim 24, further including an input device to  
12 provide the digital image to the computer system.

13 26. The printing system according to claim 25, wherein the input device is selected  
14 from the group consisting of a scanner, a digital camera, a computer system, and a network.

15 27. The printing system according to claim 24, wherein the computer system and the  
16 server computer reside within a single system.

17 28. The printing system according to claim 24, wherein the computer system includes  
18 a storage device to store the digital image.

19 29. The printing system according to claim 24, wherein the computer system includes  
20 software to edit the digital image.

1           30.    The printing system according to claim 24, wherein the computer system converts  
2 the digital image into a proprietary format prior to transmitting the digital image to the server  
3 computer.

1           31.    The printing system according to claim 24, wherein the remote monitoring server  
2 is further adapted to provide updates for software on the server computer.

1           32.    The printing system according to claim 24, wherein at least one of the server  
2 computer and the at least one printer are serviced based on the conditions monitored by the  
3 remote monitoring server.

1           33.    The printing system according to claim 24, wherein an account is maintained  
2 based on the conditions monitored by the remote monitoring server.

1           34.    The printing system according to claim 24, wherein the conditions monitored  
2 include at least one of a number of media printed by the at least one printer, a status of the server  
3 computer, a status of the at least one printer, and an ink level of an ink cartridge in the at least  
4 one printer.

1           35.    The printing system according to claim 24, wherein the lease agreement covers  
2 possession and minimum use of the server computer and the at least one printer by the end user,  
3 and supply of ink and print media to the end user by the lessor.

1 36. A printing system, comprising:

2 a server computer to receive a digital image transmitted from a computer system;

3 at least one printer connected to the server computer to print the digital image;

4 and

5 a remote monitoring server, having a connection with the server computer, to

6 monitor conditions of at least one of the server computer and the at least one printer,

7 wherein the remote monitoring server is operated by a lessor, and the server computer

8 and the at least one printer are leased out to an end user under a lease agreement.

1 37. The printing system according to claim 36, further including an input device to  
2 provide the digital image to the computer system.

1 38. The printing system according to claim 37, wherein the input device is selected  
2 from the group consisting of a scanner, a digital camera, a computer system, and a network.

1 39. The printing system according to claim 36, wherein the computer system and the  
2 server computer reside within a single system.

1 40. The printing system according to claim 36, wherein the remote monitoring server  
2 is further adapted to provide updates for software on the server computer.

1           41.     The printing system according to claim 36, wherein at least one of the server  
2 computer and the at least one printer are serviced based on the conditions monitored by the  
3 remote monitoring server.

1           42.     The printing system according to claim 36, wherein an account is maintained  
2 based on the conditions monitored by the remote monitoring server.

1           43.     The printing system according to claim 36, wherein the conditions monitored  
2 include at least one of a number of media printed by the at least one printer, a status of the server  
3 computer, a status of the at least one printer, and an ink level of an ink cartridge in the at least  
4 one printer.

1           44.     The printing system according to claim 36, wherein the lease agreement covers  
2 possession and minimum use of the server computer and the at least one printer by the end user,  
3 and supply of ink and print media to the end user by the lessor.

1           45.     A method of configuring a printing system, comprising:  
2                   connecting a server computer to a computer system, wherein the server  
3 computer receives a digital image transmitted from the computer system;  
4                   connecting at least one printer to the server computer, wherein the at least one  
5 printer prints the digital image; and  
6                   providing a remote monitoring server, having a connection with the server  
7 computer, to monitor conditions of at least one of the server computer and the at least one



8 printer, wherein the remote monitoring server is operated by a lessor, and the server  
9 computer and the at least one printer are leased out to an end user under a lease  
10 agreement.

1 46. The method according to claim 45, further including connecting an input device  
2 to the computer system to provide the digital image to the computer system.

1 47. The method according to claim 46, wherein the input device is selected from the  
2 group consisting of a scanner, a digital camera, a computer system, and a network.

1 48. The method according to claim 45, further including providing a storage device  
2 within the computer system to store the digital image.

1 49. The method according to claim 45, further including providing software to the  
2 computer system to edit the digital image.

1 50. The method according to claim 45, wherein the computer system converts the  
2 digital image into a proprietary format prior to transmitting the digital image to the server  
3 computer.

1 51. The method according to claim 45, further including providing updates by the  
2 remote monitoring server for software on the server computer.

1           52.     The method according to claim 45, further including servicing at least one of the  
2     server computer and the at least one printer based on the conditions monitored by the remote  
3     monitoring server.

1           53.     The method according to claim 45, further including maintaining an account  
2     based on the conditions monitored by the remote monitoring server.

1           54.     The method according to claim 45, wherein the conditions monitored include at  
2     least one of a number of media printed by the at least one printer, a status of the server computer,  
3     a status of the at least one printer, and an ink level of an ink cartridge in the at least one printer.

1           55.     The method according to claim 45, further including supplying at least one of ink  
2     and print media based on the conditions monitored by the remote monitoring server.

1           56.     The method according to claim 45, wherein the lease agreement covers possession  
2     and minimum use of the server computer and the at least one printer by the end user, and supply  
3     of ink and print media to the end user by the lessor.